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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

5 June 1976

X.R. 76-2419

Mr. Kenneth Parkhurst, President  
Ohio Conference  
American Association of University Professors  
John Carroll University  
4177 Okalona Road  
South Euclid, Ohio 44121

Dear President Parkhurst:

Thank you for your letter of 20 May 1976, in which you informed me of the resolution recently adopted by the Ohio Conference of the AAUP. As you undoubtedly are aware, William Van Alstyne, President of the AAUP, wrote to me expressing similar concerns. I believe that my response to him was clear, and I take the liberty of quoting from that letter, dated 11 May. I said,

"The Agency has several kinds of relationships with scholars and scholarly institutions. They include negotiated contracts for scientific research and development, contracts for social science research on the many matters that affect foreign policy, paid and unpaid consultations between scholars and CIA research analysts, contacts with individuals who have travelled abroad, and other similar contacts that help us fulfill our primary responsibility; i.e., to provide the policy makers of our government with information and assessments of foreign developments.

We seek the voluntary and witting cooperation of individuals who can help the foreign policy processes of the United States. Those who help are expressing a freedom of choice. Occasionally such relationships are confidential at our request, but more often they are discreet at the scholar's request because of his concern that he will be badgered by those who feel he should not be free to make this particular choice.

None of the relationships are intended to influence either what is taught or any other aspect of a scholar's work. We specifically do not try to inhibit the 'free search for truth and its free exposition.' Indeed, we

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would be foolish to do so, for it is the truth we seek. We know that we have no monopoly on fact or on understanding, and to restrict the search for the truth would be extremely detrimental to our own purposes. If CIA were to isolate itself from the good counsel of the best scholars in our country, we would surely become a narrow organization that could give only inferior service to the government. The complexity of international relations today requires that our research be strong, and we intend to keep it strong by seeking the best perspectives from inside and outside the government."

I hope that the above statement is reassuring. Let me say that any employee of any school with whom we have had an exchange of views in his capacity as employee is free to acknowledge that fact publicly or to his college or university administration. My understanding of these matters leads me to believe, however, that while consulting with any part of our government a scholar usually thinks of himself as a private actor rather than as part of the institution of higher education from which he comes. Thus, he feels neither more nor less obligated to report his relationship with CIA than he would his consultations with other U.S. agencies, with U.S. and foreign businesses, or with foreign governments. Since we do not seek scholarly contact from particular schools, but rather reach out for advice from the best authorities wherever they may be, I see some merit in the scholar's logic.

Sincerely,



George Bush  
Director

cc: DCI  
DDCI  
E. H. Knoche  
DDS&T  
DDI  
DEA  
DDO  
D/DCI/NIO  
Asst/DCI  
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